

Measuring the Impact of an Undergraduate Research Journal

An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)

by

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ABSTRACT

Fine Focus, the first international microbiology journal for undergraduate research, was started at Ball State University in the fall of 2013 with the first issue being published winter of 2014. Since then, two issues of the journal have been published annually. In the last six years, metadata are recorded and documented on submissions received through the manuscript submission portal OJS, Open Journal System. For this project, a meta-analysis was conducted on the above-mentioned data on manuscripts submitted for publication in *Fine Focus*. These statistics included: current manuscript acceptance/rejection rate, number and country of origin for international submissions, pages per issue, manuscripts per issue, and number of manuscripts per issue section. These results will be presented to the Executive Committee to help advise future decisions made regarding marketing strategies and strategic planning. The information will help to shape the vision of the journal, identify specific target markets, and to adjust the types of manuscripts that are accepted in order to improve the impact on the undergraduate microbiology community globally.

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